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TWELVE PAGES — ONE RIYAL

Iran executes 9 military men

TEHRAN, June 2 (Agencies) — Nine more military and police personnel were executed in Iran Saturday morning, according to the official Pars News Agency.

Pars said eight men, including three generals, were killed by firing squads early Saturday morning in the cities of Ahvaz and Majed Soleiman in southern Iran. A ninth was executed in Tabriz.

The generals were identified as Gen. Gholam Husein Sham Tabrizi, the former commander of the Khuzestan 92nd armored division, and the former military governor of Ahvaz, Brig. Gen. Hashem Houshmand Hamedani, the former chief of police in Khuzestan province, and Gen. Cholam Husein Alai, the former commander of Majed Soleiman.

The agency added that Alai was sent to Majed Soleiman to be executed there for the "numerous crimes" he had allegedly committed there.

The news agency added that the Islamic revolutionary court which sentenced the men to death was chaired by Ayatollah Sadeq

Khalkhan, a senior religious judge of Iran's revolutionary justice. The state radio said a police major, Mousoud Hagh-Shenas was charged with killing and torturing innocent persons, and executed in the northwestern city of Tabriz.

The latest deaths bring to 255 the total number of those placed in front of firing squads since the February revolution.

In Khorramshahr meanwhile, about 3,000 Iranian Arabs marched through the streets of the city Saturday to protest against government action in recent fighting between Persian and Arab communities here.

There were no incidents, however, and green-uniformed revolutionary guard reinforcements from Tehran ordered Persian youths on rooftops to stay out of sight during the demonstration.

At one point, the Arabs tried to break through the cordon of stewards to march on the city's heavily guarded main mosque, but were restrained.

Sources in the city said two Arabs were killed and six wounded on a similar demonstration Friday when local militia opened fire.

A few food shops opened Saturday for the first time since fighting began Thursday.

Local Iranians wearing white face masks to prevent recognition in this city of 150,000 and toting standard army issue automatic rifles manned sandbagged positions on street corners, but there were fewer than Friday.

He said he was pleased to learn that the assembly's personnel were determined to do their best for the development of the bus industry.

Dr. Ghaith Pharaon, chairman of the plant's board, said the factory, set up at a cost of SR 60



Fawaz opens plant for buses in Mecca

MECCA, June 2 (SPA) — Governor of Mecca Prince Fawaz opened the first Saudi bus assembly plant here Saturday.

In his address the prince reiterated the government's support of private industrial investment and said both the public and private sectors were involved in the Kingdom's industrialization program.

Prince Fawaz said the government of King Khaled "looks forward" to more industrial projects by the private sector.

King Khaled last year opened the first truck assembly. The National Automobile Industries Co. — a joint Saudi-West German venture produces heavy duty trucks at its plant north of Jeddah.

The Mecca bus assembly is a joint venture with a U.S. company.

Syrian, Iraqi leaders to finalize unity plan

BEIRUT, June 2 (R) — The presidents of Syria and Iraq will meet soon to discuss final plans for uniting their two countries, Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar said in an interview published Saturday.

Iskandar was quoted by "Al-

Mustaqbal," a Paris-based Lebanese weekly magazine, as saying: "We have reached the final stage of preparing the constitutional formula for this unity."

The minister did not disclose the date or the venue of the summit talks.

The neighboring countries apparently ended more than a decade of hostility last October by signing a pact for joint action, in response to Egyptian-Israeli peace moves.

Government officials in Damascus and Baghdad have said the ultimate goal was full political and constitutional union in a single state under one president.

On Saturday a senior Iraqi official arrived in Damascus to discuss unity plans.

Tareq Aziz, a member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), told reporters he would deliver a message from President Ahmad Hassan Bakr to Syrian President Hafez Assad.

He made the call in an interview with the Paris-based weekly, "Al-Mustaqbal," reported Saturday by the Sudan News Agency (Suna).

In the interview, President Numeiri called for an urgent Arab summit conference to be convened in Mecca, to discuss developments in the Arab world and formulate a strategy for joint Arab action.

He said he would be sending invitations to Arab heads of state next week for the conference in the Islamic holy city, whose spiritual status, he said, would inspire Arab leaders to make decisions beneficial to the Arab nation.

"If the Arabs leave things as they are they will be seeing the end of what is left of the Arab cause. The Arabs have no definite and unified strategy," he said.

Asked if he would support a move to transfer Arab League

Tunisians, Naif stress mutual ties

TUNIS, June 2 (SPA) — Saudi Interior Minister Prince Naif arrived here Saturday on an official visit at the invitation of the Tunisian Interior Minister Dr. Safawi Hanabili.

He was met at the airport by his host; Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Omran, Saudi ambassador in Tunis; Qassem Abu Sinan, ambassador to the Kingdom and several other state officials.

Prince Naif said he was happy at his visit, during which he will confer with Tunisian officials on matters of mutual interest.

He said that this visit would offer him "an opportunity to get acquainted with the Tunisian people whom he loved and admired deeply." He stressed the importance of the brotherly meetings which were in the best interests of both the Arab and Islamic nations.

In a welcoming speech, Dr. Hanabili said Prince Naif's visit to his second home would be an opportune time to discuss matters of common interest in the field of security and to further strengthen the existing relations between the two countries.

After his Tunisian tour, Prince Naif will fly to Paris to pay a similar visit to France.

Meanwhile, French Ambassador in Jeddah Michel Jean has stressed the significance of Prince Naif's visit to France. He said it would open new vistas for fruitful cooperation and further consolidate the strong bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

Government officials in Damascus and Baghdad have said the ultimate goal was full political and constitutional union in a single state under one president.

The newspaper said Friday that Egypt would send Scandinavian, African, Asian and Latin American countries to form a peace-keeping force.

It said there were reports the Soviet Union would veto the renewal of UNEF's mandate.

The authoritative Cairo newspaper "Al-Ahram" said Saturday Egypt would hold urgent talks with a number of African states to sound out their readiness to take part in the force. It would carry out all the tasks entrusted to UNEF, whose mandate expires on July 23.

The newspaper said Friday that Egypt would send Scandinavian, African, Asian and Latin American countries to form a peace-keeping force.

It said there were reports the Soviet Union would veto the renewal of UNEF's mandate.

Strengthen the Christian Democrats to defeat the forces of conservatism and to save and renew Italy," the Communist daily "L'Unità" urged.

But with none of the parties expected to win an absolute majority most politicians privately agreed that the election would serve only to determine the strength of the major parties for the post-election bargaining for a new government.

Christian Democratic party officials reiterated it could not envisage a power-sharing agreement with the Communists "whose opinions and visions are completely different to ours."

The two statements again illustrated that the elections are not being fought on specific issues but on the question of whether or not the Communists should be granted cabinet seats in a coalition government.

Both parties finished only four per cent apart in voting three years ago.

Italian flocked to the beaches in summer weather Saturday and there were no reports of the political violence of the earlier part of the campaign.

Most of the 28 parties and joint tickets mobilized their supporters in final rallies across the country.

Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer told a mass rally in Rome that the participation of his party in government would not carry the slightest risk to democracy or Italy's position in Europe.

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Both parties finished only four per cent apart in voting three



Cameroon leader due here today as King's guest

RIYADH, June 2 (SPA) — The President of Cameroon, Ahmed Al-Sheikh, is due to arrive here Sunday on an official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of King Khaled.

President Ahidjo will be guest of honor at a dinner to be given by the King, Sunday night. Formal talks will be held Monday after which the president will leave for Jeddah in order to perform the out-of-season Pilgrimage in Mecca and to visit the Holy Prophet's Mosque in Medina.

Imam killed in car accident

BURAIDAH, June 3 — An Imam and three members of his family were killed when their car overturned on the Buraidah to Medina road this week, according to "Al-Jazirah" Saturday. Four other persons were admitted to a hospital. The man was identified as Sheikh Ibrahim Muhammad Al-Jurdan, imam and speaker of a mosque in Buraidah. He was 70.

Kingdom aids Turk malaria fight

ANKARA, June 2 (SPA) — The Turkish Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Health Friday thanked Saudi Arabia for a donation of \$100,000 to Turkey's Society for Combating Malaria for a second year. The check was handed to the Foreign Ministry Thursday by Saudi Ambassador Sheikh Muhammad Al-Awadi.

Writers to make speaking tour

RIYADH, June 2 (SPA) — A delegation of Saudi writers leaves here for Baghdad Sunday on the first leg of a Gulf tour of seminars and readings on the literature of Saudi Arabia. The delegation is composed of Hassan Abdulla Al-Qasri, Dr. Abdullah Al-Zaid, Muhammad Ali Al-Saoudi, Abu Abdul Rahman ibn Agil, Ahmed Farah Oqaili, Hashim Al-Rashid and Hamad Al-Qadi.

Leaves for Argentina

Farm minister signs deals for Danish expert services

COPENHAGEN, June 2 (SPA) — Minister of Agriculture and Water Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Sheikh ended a three-day visit to Denmark Saturday during which he signed two agreements covering Danish consultancy services to the ministry.

The agreements were signed with the Danish government which is already providing experts for the ministry on dairy farming and stock-breeding.

Dr. Al-Sheikh was to hold a similar round of talks in Argentina this week.

Dr. Al-Sheikh said here that agriculture was receiving greater attention since Saudi Arabia was intent on broadening its sources of revenue from simple crude oil sales.

Dr. Al-Sheikh told a press conference that this thinking had prompted the Kingdom to invest heavily in industrial and agricultural schemes.

Saudi Arabia is adopting the most advanced technology in

developing its agricultural and animal resources, he said.

He praised Denmark's expertise in capital-intensive agriculture and stock-breeding and the cooperation that had become possible.

Dr. Al-Sheikh also held talks with officials on developing industries based on agriculture.

PTT aide leads mission to communications talks

RIYADH, June 2 (SPA) — Saudi Arabia is to seek increased access to international radio frequencies and greater coordination at a meeting of world telecommunications officials which begins in Geneva Monday.

Deputy PTT Minister for Telecommunications Dr. Ibrahim Obaid left here for Geneva Saturday at the head of a ministry delegation to the administrative council of the International Telecommunications Federation, a United Nations affiliate body.

The meetings, which are

scheduled to last until June 22, will discuss coordination in the allocation of frequencies and hear a report from an advisory committee on telegraph and telephones.

The council consists of 35 ITU members and is the senior body after the plenary conference of deputies, which meets every five years.

Saudi Arabia became a member of the council in 1973 on election by the full conference.

The council will also hear a report from the federation's secretary general.

Kingdom costliest place for visitors, U.N. claims

UNITED NATIONS, June 2 (R) — Saudi Arabia is the most expensive place in the world to visit, according to the United Nations.

Ireland is the cheapest.

The U.N. this week published a revised table of the subsistence allowances it provides for traveling officials. In Saudi Arabia, they will get \$129 a day compared with only \$30 in Ireland.

Kuwait, at \$120, is the second costliest place to visit. Brussels at \$83, is the most expensive city in Western Europe but is a bit cheaper than Tokyo where the rate is \$85.

The allowance in London is \$79 a day, and the rest of Britain \$47. Other allowances include \$69 for India, \$61 for New York, \$43 for India, \$40 for Israel and \$39 for Montreal.

The plants will replace the present manually operated plant in the capital and is part of a program to improve supplies in seven towns.

A plant has been opened in Medina and Jeddah and Damman will open facilities next year. The program has so far cost SR100 million.

Bids will be invited within the next few weeks for the construction of plants in Taif, Qasim and Asir.

The plants will produce 1.2 million tons in two daily shifts and are expected to meet consumption in Saudi Arabia until 1986.

The gas-tanker fleet of the



GOVERNOR RETURNS: Prince Salman, the governor of Riyadh, is met by officials at Riyadh Airport on his return from London Friday night.

Riyadh throngs to greet Salman

RIYADH, June 2 (SPA) — Governor of Riyadh Prince Salman received throngs of visitors in

his office here Saturday. They called to greet him on his safe return from a visit abroad. Prince Salman returned from London Friday night.

Seven new plants

Saudi Gas plans improved supply

JEDDAH, June 2 — Plans to improve supplies of domestic gas in Saudi Arabia will receive a boost with the opening of an automatic bottling plant in Riyadh later this year, "Al-Jazirah" reported Saturday.

The plant will replace the present manually operated plant in the capital and is part of a program to improve supplies in seven towns.

A plant has been opened in Medina and Jeddah and Damman will open facilities next year. The program has so far cost SR100 million.

Prince Khaled said the decision was a wise one since spiraling bride prices were becoming a deterrent to marriage in the south.

The plants will produce 1.2 million tons in two daily shifts and are expected to meet consumption in Saudi Arabia until 1986.

The gas-tanker fleet of the

Southern tribe cuts bride price

JEDDAH, June 2 — Governor of Asir Prince Khaled Al-Faisal has welcomed a move by the Bilahmar tribe to lower its bride price by 20 per cent, "Okaz" reported Saturday.

According to the decree, the company will retain its monopoly for the distribution and marketing of domestic bottled gas.

Talks are underway between the Ministries of Commerce and Industry and Electricity and the board of the company to carry out the decree.

India seeking more Saudi oil

JEDDAH, June 3 — Indian Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals H.N. Bahuguna arrived here Saturday in a major effort to meet a shortage in Indian crude oil supplies.

According to the Indian Embassy here, Bahuguna will hold talks with Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani on increased allocations of Saudi oil to India.

India has been traditionally dependent on Iranian crude but last autumn's disruption in the Iranian oil-fields and Iran's lower than average export production since then has led to fears of a shortage in India.

Indian Industry Minister



George Fernandes discussed additional Saudi supplies during a visit to Saudi Arabia at the end of January.

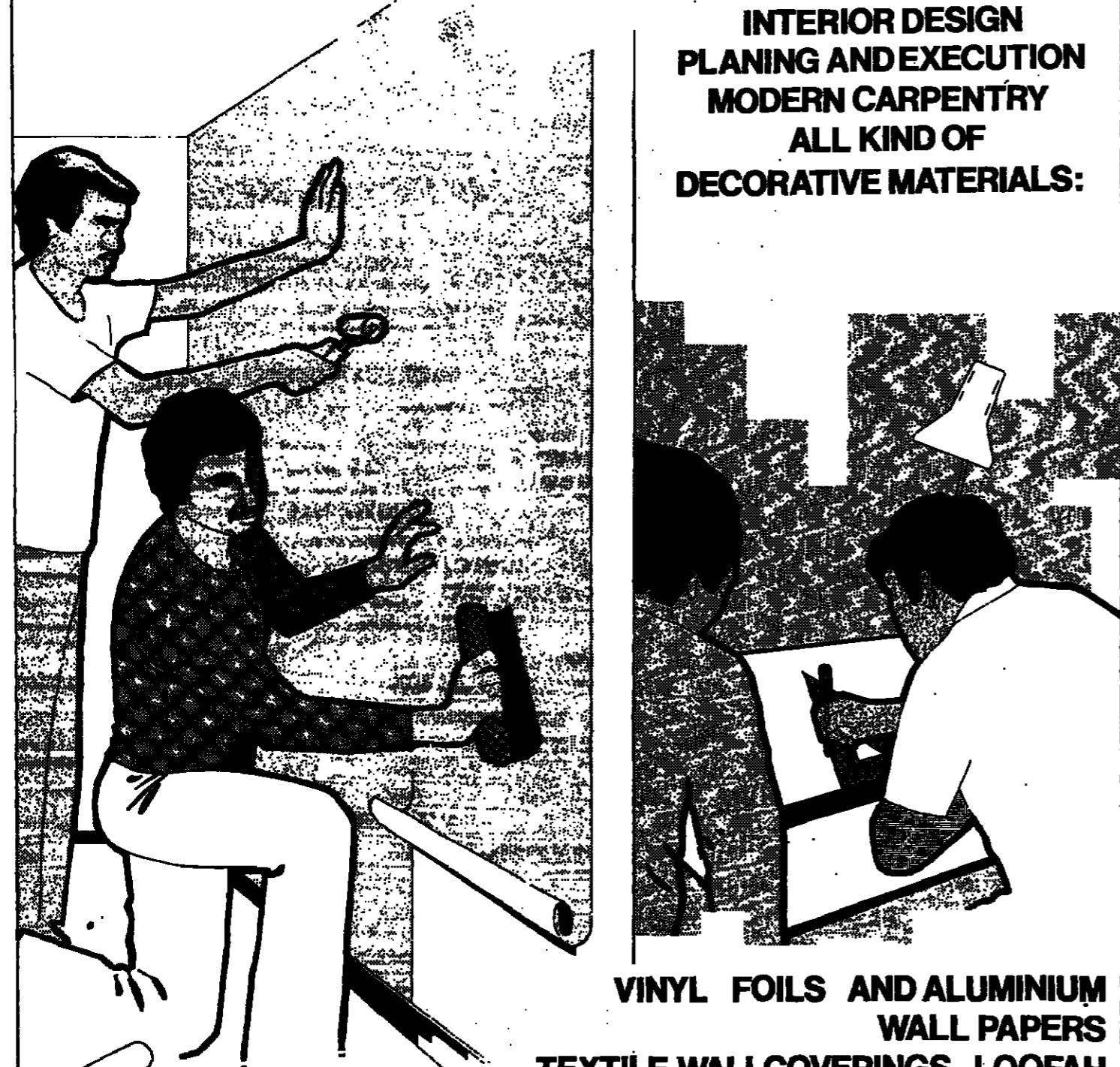
Fernandes, the first minister to visit the Kingdom since the Janata government came to power two years ago, said that he had been assured by Crown Prince Faisal that Saudi Arabia would do everything to meet India's requirement for new oil. Fernandes came as a special envoy of Indian Premier Moraji Desai.

During his four-day visit, Bahuguna will also tour Aramco production and export facilities in the Eastern Province.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

The vessel M/V FOTINI II whose particulars are given below, abandoned by her Owners and Agents in Jeddah Harbour; shall be sold as unclaimed property by Jeddah Port Management, under terms and conditions stipulated hereunder; the last known owner was M/S Kastoria Shipping Co. Ltd. of Cyprus.

PARTICULARS OF VESSEL

1. Name	M/V FOTINI II
2. Place and Date of Built	Hamburg 1948
3. Flag	Cyprus
4. Port of Registry	LIMASOS
5. Gross Tons	1500.86
6. Net Tons	812.95
7. D.W. Tons	1859.00
8. Class	Lloyds Register of Shipping
9. Overall length	269.5 feet
10. M. Breadth	39.21 feet
11. Depth	12.96 feet
12. Holds/Hatches	4/5
13. Lifting gear	10 Derricks (2/3 tons, 1/10 tons, 7/3.5 tons)
14. Main Engine	Fiat Ansaldo M/S 456 6 cyl. Oil 25 A B.H.P. 1350
15. Auxiliary Machinery	2 Ruston and Hornsby 40 KW and 1 Scania 40 KW

LOCATION:

The vessel is lying at anchor at Jeddah Seaport and can be inspected by interested parties after obtaining permission from Jeddah Port Management.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- All bids must be sent in sealed envelopes addressed to Director General Islamic Jeddah Seaport Jeddah, by 10th June, 1979 which is the last and closing date for receiving the bids.
- The bids must be accompanied by a bank draft or cheque payable to Director General Islamic Seaport (on demand) or an amount of Saudi Riyals 10,000/- (Saudi Riyals ten thousand only). This amount will be refunded to those whose offers are not accepted.
- The sale is on as is where is basis.
- Successful bidder will remove the vessel from Port premises at their risk and costs within twenty days of being notified about acceptance of their bid and after payment of the amount of bid to Jeddah Port Management.
- If the successful bidder fails to pay all costs and remove the vessel within twenty days of notification mentioned above he will forfeit his security deposit and lose all claims.
- Jeddah Port Management reserves its right to accept or reject any or all offers.

(FOUAD M. MOKHTAR)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
JEDDAH ISLAMIC PORT

Waldheim says U.N. force in Cyprus is indispensable

UNITED NATIONS, June 2 (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim said Friday peacekeeping troops in Cyprus are indispensable and recommended the 2,500-man U.N. force be continued there another six months.

The U.N. peacekeeping force was first sent to Cyprus in 1963 to halt fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots and has been renewed every six months since then. The current mandate expires June 15.

In a report to the Security Council recommending a six-month extension of the mandate of the force in the island, UNFICYP, Waldheim praised the "spirit of enlightened statesmanship and cooperation" shown at the May 12-19 Nicosia meetings which he chaired.

Intercommunal talks between



effort to help make them a success.

He said that it was imperative that UNFICYP should mean while continue to maintain calm in the island.

The cost of keeping the force in operation is estimated at \$12,123,000 for the six-month period, Waldheim said. This does not include \$17.7 million in costs which Waldheim said the troop contributing nations absorb.

The force is composed of troops from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. In addition Sweden and Australia supply a total of 34 civilian police.

Waldheim appealed for contributions to the special account under which the Cyprus force is financed. He said the fund's accumulated deficit since 1964 is now \$64.8 million.

Kurt Waldheim

Greek and Turkish Cypriots are due to begin in Nicosia on June 15, bringing to an end a hiatus of more than two years, he noted.

Waldheim said the talks were bound to be arduous but he or his representatives would exert every

Calls it 'occupation' force

Chad wants Nigeria army out

NDJAMENA, Chad June 2 (AP) — The provisional government of Chad has called on Nigeria to withdraw its 2,000-man peacekeeping force without delay because the Nigerians "are behaving like an occupation army in conquered territory," a government spokesman has announced.

Friday's demand raised the danger of a direct confrontation in the streets of N'Djamena between Chadian irregulars, backing the

Arab ministers discuss League office transfer

AMMAN, June 2 (Agencies) — Ministers from six Arab countries called Saturday on Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran to discuss questions relating to the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Cairo to Tunis.

The move approved at the Baghdad summit conference last September, was made in response to the Camp David summit that led to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

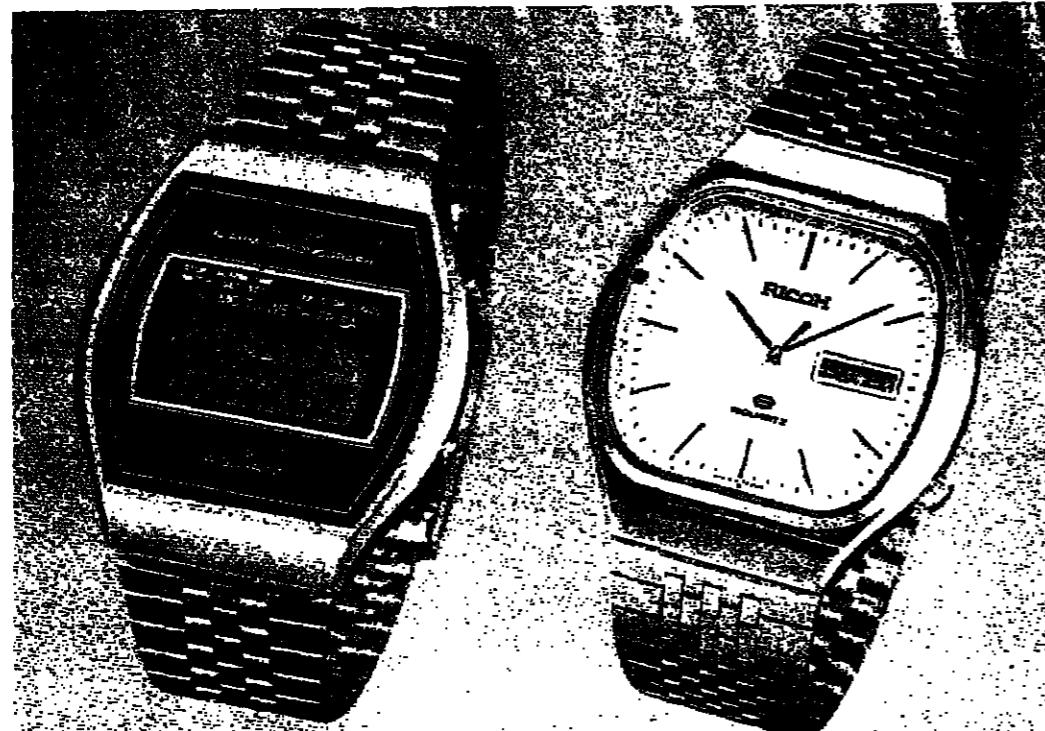
Egypt has refused to hand over Arab League documents and President Anwar Sadat has forbidden Egyptian employees of the League to leave Cairo.

The ministers, forming a six-state Arab League committee came from Algeria, Tunisia, Kuwait, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

According to the official Jordan agency, the meeting also discussed the political and economic measures adopted by the Arab states following the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty last March.

The committee formed by the Arab foreign and economy ministers meeting in Baghdad two months ago later met to discuss ways of getting the Arab League functioning formally in Tunis.

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LAWYER: Lawyer Serge Klerfeld, from Paris, arriving Tuesday at Qasr prison in Iran to see Jewish prisoners held by the Iranian authorities. The director of prosecution told him that only two Jews are at present detained and no one is in custody because of his religion. Klerfeld is in Iran to protest the execution of Habbib Elghanian, a Jewish businessman accused of spying for Israel.

Shah granted tourist visa by Mexican government

MEXICO CITY, June 2 (Agencies) — The deposed Shah of Iran was granted a visa by the Mexican government at the consulate in the Bahama. Friday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

But the two strongest factions, led by former President Goukouni Oueddei and former Premier Hissene Habre, refused to pull out their troops and set up a provisional government instead, naming Muhammad Shawwa as president.

Chad's six neighbors — Nigeria, Libya, Sudan, Cameroon, Niger and the Central African Empire — met in Lagos last week with some of the minority factions in the civil war to seek a solution to the dispute. Oueddei, Habre and Shawwa boycotted the meeting.

A communiqué issued by the Lagos conference demanded the withdrawal of the 2,000 French troops which, it said, "further complicated an otherwise soluble problem."

The Shah's visa, good for 180 days, is renewable if he leaves the country and returns, the ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman did not say how many times it could be renewed, or if any restrictions had been placed on it.

The Shah's sister owns a home in Acapulco which has been redecorated for the Shah and according to a source in Acapulco who has seen the house "is large enough to accommodate the Shah and all his party."

One of Iran's new revolutionary religious leaders has called for the death of the Shah.

"I want the blood of the Shah in return for all the blood which has been shed in this country," Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkhali said last month.

The Shah left Iran in January and the appointed government he left behind was overthrown in February by the Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Khomeini. He has since been to Egypt, Morocco and the Bahamas.

The government of Pakistan has so far spent about \$ 4 million on their relief, which includes wheat flour, sugar and medical aid, he said.

The spokesman said Friday that the Pakistan government had set up refugee camps for the Afghan nationals at Chitral, Warsak, Turbela, and Miranshah.

Warns of 'serious' implications

Morocco minister wants Marcos to resume peace talks with MNLF

MANILA, June 2 (AP) — The president of the 40-state Islamic Conference warned Friday of "serious" repercussions unless negotiations resume to end the bloody Muslim revolt in the southern Philippines.

Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Boucetta told a news conference that the Islamic movement recognizes Libyan-based Filipino Muslim leader Nur Misuari as head of the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), implying that the Philippine martial law regime should negotiate with him if peace talks are to be resumed.

The Philippine government has refused to talk with him, saying he is a Communist and had been deposed as MNLF leader.

The Moroccan official expressed hope that peace talks between President Ferdinand Marcos' government and the MNLF would resume immediately, otherwise the problem "could have serious implications if not attended to." He said, however, that "up to now we have not encountered any categorical refusal" by either party to talk.

A number of Marcos' intelligence officers were at the conference.

Fighting in Mindanao and other southern islands, home of nearly three million Muslims, escalated shortly after Marcos proclaimed

martial law in September 1972.

The most devastating armed confrontation occurred in February 1974 when the armed forces bombed and strafed suspected rebel hideouts in Jolo town, the center of the rebellion with about 80,000 population then. The encounter virtually razed the whole town and killed an undetermined number of rebels and civilians.

By Marcos' own estimate early last year, the fighting had taken about 50,000 lives and set back the economic development of the south, the country's second largest island which, if fully tapped could feed the country's 47 million population.

Boucetta insisted the solution to

the rebellion "is political and not judicial," he did not elaborate. But observers took his statement to mean that state laws may be brushed aside to give way to popular opinion.

He said the Tripoli agreement, signed by the Philippine government and the MNLF in December 1972 under the auspices of the Islamic Conference, "is the foundation for the solution" to the Muslim insurgency. "But the trouble is there is a divergence of interpretation of this document. We'll have to get hold of it, and study it."

He and Marcos met Thursday and "lengthily discussed" the conflict, according to Boucetta.

Tanzanian troops said killing Uganda Muslims

KHARTOUM, June 2 (AP) — Ugandan refugees claim Tanzanian troops in their country are killing thousands of Muslims every day, including women and children, the Sudanese News Agency reported Saturday.

The Muslim refugees reportedly said the Tanzanians are assaulting women and then gunning them down. Any Muslim in northern Uganda is immediately killed, the refugees said according to SUNA.

The refugees fled into southern Sudan following the Tanzanian invasion of their country which resulted in the overthrow of former President Idi Amin in April.

None of the refugees were named by the agency, but they were said to be located in the towns of Nimale, Kaya and Kajo Kaji in Sudan's deep south more than 1,300 kilometers from Khartoum.

In one case reported by the refugees, the agency said, the Tanzanians moved into the Ugandan town of Lira last Sunday and converted a number of Muslims at prayer.

The preacher and children were shot in head and women were assaulted, the agency said.

Muslims are a minority in Uganda and reportedly being pursued because Amin is a Muslim. The agency said the refugees issued appeals to Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri to put an end to the killings.

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Rebels in Panama

San Salvador embassy siege ends

PANAMA CITY, June 2 (Agencies) — Twenty-five leftist militants who had occupied the French and Venezuelan embassies in San Salvador for most of last month arrived in Panama City early Saturday, diplomats said.

They said that they believed the 21 men and four women were due to depart for Mexico City in a few hours.

The Mexican government announced Friday it had granted political asylum to the group shortly after they ended their occupation of the two embassies in the El Salvador capital.

Panama withdrew a similar offer.

Soon after arriving Friday night in Panama, the members of the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) were handed over to the Panamanian National Guard and were being held under strict security, the diplomats said.

The BPR members were taken to the barracks of Tinajita, near the international airport.

The French DC-8F aircraft, which had carried them here then flew out they added.

Pertuvian ambassador to El Salvador, Adelmo Rissi, had accompanied the group to Panama. But it was not known immediately whether he was continuing with the leftists to their final destination.

Earlier in San Salvador, police

and troops were withdrawn from the French Embassy and the 16 leftists rode away on a bus. Then the hostages emerged. Nine Bloc militants had occupied the Venezuelan Embassy, from which eight hostages escaped late last month.

As they got on the bus, the leftists cheered, "Forward, forward...The fight will continue" and raised clenched fists. They wore red-and-yellow masks, the colors of their guerrilla organization.

Spain denies U.S. pressuring for early accession to NATO

MADRID, June 2 (R) — Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja Saturday made it clear the Spanish government wanted to join

NATO in its own time and rejected widespread speculation that the United States was pressuring Spain to join the Western alliance quickly.

Speaking at a lunch for visiting Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Oreja said Spain's acceptance of Western democratic values would have all kinds of logical consequences.

These the centrist government was fully prepared to assume, "especially including those which affect security," he said in his speech which was released to the press.

The security of Europe was of direct concern to Spain which was "ready to make a contribution when the time comes," Oreja added.

Conspirators killed JFK, House committee asserts

WASHINGTON, June 2 (AP) — The House of Representatives Assassinations Committee says in its final report that President John F. Kennedy's death was probably the result of a conspiracy and that the committee cannot rule out the possibility of involvement by organized crime figures or Cubans.

An advance copy of the report says that if organized crime figures were involved, the most likely would be reputed mob bosses Carlos Marcello in Louisiana and Santos Trafficante in Florida. The report says the committee has no conclusive evidence that either of them were in fact involved in any conspiracy.

The report also discusses speculation that former Teamster Union President James Hoffa could have been involved, but draws no conclusion whether he was or not.

The committee concluded last December that Kennedy was probably assassinated in a cross-fire by two gunmen and that it could rule out nearly all types of conspirators except individual mobsters or Cuban exiles.

The committee concluded that the assassination was probably a conspiracy because of testimony by acoustics experts that they are 95 per cent certain a shot was fired in which the 30-year-old Spengelk spent his last hours.

The paper quoted the inmates as saying Spengelk fought prison guards for about 15 minutes while they shaved his head and right calf to prepare him for the electric chair.

The "Times" said David Brierley, state prison superintendent, refused to discuss the events preceding Spengelk's execution. Brierley was not available for comment Friday.

Among the five hostages freed from the French Embassy was Ambassador Michel Donedonne who said before boarding a car from the building, "I am going home with my people and they (militants) are going to Panama."

San Salvador Saturday appeared calm after a month in which the BPR militants had taken over several embassies and churches. At least 36 people have been killed and 50 wounded in clashes with security forces.

Spanish newspapers have speculated that the 22-hour Vance visit, coming only a fortnight after an official trip here by Defense Secretary Harold Brown, meant that the Washington administration was trying to hasten Spain's entry into NATO.

Vance echoed Oreja's sentiments, saying it was up to Spain to decide if and when it wants to join NATO.

Vance, speaking at a press conference before leaving for home, firmly denied that the Carter administration was applying pressure to the Spanish government.

"As far as the accession of Spain to NATO is concerned, that is clearly a subject for Spain to decide if and when it chooses to do so."

These the centrist government was fully prepared to assume, "especially including those which affect security," he said in his speech which was released to the press.

The security of Europe was of direct concern to Spain which was "ready to make a contribution when the time comes," Oreja added.

While the committee's conclusions were announced in December, a lengthy report backing up those findings has not been released.

The final report, to be released later this summer, says the two-year House investigation could not determine who the conspirators were, but it spells out the evidence and allegations it gathered on the organized crime figures and on the possibility that they or Cubans were involved.

All DC-10s had undergone inspection in the three days since all were ordered grounded.

The inspections were all considerably more thorough than they would have been had there been no Chicago crash. On at least one plane that remains grounded, mechanics found a crack that one expert said could eventually have caused an engine to drop off the aircraft.

An engine fell off American

Airlines flight 191 as the plane

was taking off and seconds later

the aircraft crashed and burned.

Investigators are now looking into the possibility of design flaws.

Under FAA rules issued after the crash, airlines must repeat the inspection of the pylon area in which the engines are attached to the wings of DC-10s after every 100 hours of engine service or every 10 days, whichever occurs earlier.

Meanwhile, experts from the National Transportation Safety Board were beginning a detailed investigation into the cause of the Chicago crash, a task that was expected to take about four weeks.

Board member Philip Hogue, after receiving a briefing from staff engineers and scientists, said he would not fly DC-10 until a lot more questions were answered about the plane's design. And if he had the power would order the DC-10 fleet grounded.

"Traffic this week has exceeded all our forecasts," said American

Airlines' Dave Frailey. "We don't

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IEA to meet on subsidy

Carter firm on decontrol; urges passage of oil tax

WASHINGTON, June 2 (AP) — President Jimmy Carter told American consumer advocates and environmentalists Friday he will not back off on his controversial plan to remove government price controls on oil.

One participant at the session Friday quoted Carter as pledging to fight for congressional passage of a tax to keep oil companies from reaping excess profits as a result of decontrol.

Carter also was quoted as describing Mobil Oil as "the most irresponsible corporation in America." A spokesman for Mobil declined immediate comment on the accusation.

Carter invited representatives of consumer and environmental groups, as well as trade associations, to the White House to discuss the United States' energy

problems and the need for conservation.

The group included both critics and supporters of Carter's plan to remove oil price controls. The first phase of the president's plan went into effect Friday.

Meanwhile, in Paris, the 20-nation International Energy Agency is calling an emergency meeting next week so the United States can explain to its irritated European partners why it is offering U.S. firms an import subsidy on petroleum products.

The U.S. government decided a week ago to pay the 5-dollar-a-barrel subsidy to U.S. oil importers — a subsidy that will make it easier for the U.S. firms to compete with the high-priced market for oil in Western Europe and to increase oil supplies in the United States.

Gas line quarrel leads to New York shooting

NEW YORK, June 2 (AP) — A man was arrested Friday and charged with the shooting death of a man who went ahead of a long line of motorists waiting to get gasoline.

Charged was Dennis Rosales, 23.

It was the first slaying in a crescendo of anger engendered by the mounting gasoline shortage in the New York City metropolitan area.

The victim, Andrew Medosa, 21, was said to have sidewiped another car as he tried to switch his gold Buick to the shorter of two long lines at a station in Brooklyn Thursday evening.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Opening Saturday	SAMA rate	Cash	Transfer
U.S. Dollar	3.40	3.41	3.40
Pound Sterling	7.05	7.04	7.04
Deutsche Mark (100)	178.00	178.00	177.65
Swiss F (100)	198.00	197.00	196.00
French F (100)	77.00	76.75	76.80
Italian Lira (1000)	4.00	4.02	3.99
Lebanese Lira (100)	—	104.25	103.00
Syrian Lira (100)	—	77.00	87.25
Egyptian Pound	—	4.63	4.57
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	12.25	12.22
Jordanian Dinar	—	11.13	11.10
Emirates Dirham (100)	—	88.00	88.75
Qatari Riyal (100)	—	91.00	90.55
Bahraini Dinar	—	8.90	8.90
Iranian Riyal (100)	—	9.25	—
Iraqi Dinar	—	74.75	74.65
Yemeni Riyal (100)	—	76.50	87.50
Moroccan Dirham (100)	—	—	41.55
Indian Rupee (100)	—	—	34.55
Pakistani Rupee (100)	—	—	—
Gold kg	—	29.700	—
10 Tolas bar	—	3.480	—
Silver kg bar	—	1.000	—
Japanese yen (100)	1.55	—	—
Canadian dollar	2.93	—	—
Belgian franc (10)	1.11	—	—
Dutch guilder	1.63	—	—

SAMA rates announced by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, based on average rates on the London money market and the official price of the U.S. dollar.

Cash and transfer rates supplied by Al-Rajhi Company for currency Exchange and Commerce, Gabel St., Jeddah. Tel.: 23815

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Saudi Arabian Government Tenders

Authority	Description	No. of Tender	Price SR	Closing Date
Municipality of Otaiza	Securing of three garbage trucks	1	100	June 19
Municipality of Mecca	Securing of two road-cleaner vehicles	2	100	June 19
Directorate General of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Western Province	Demolishing and removing of rubble from the expropriated properties	25	300	June 18
	Asphalting, paving and lighting in Al-Khurma	400	June 11	
	Temporary asphalting of roads in Ramla	300	June 16	
	Completing of Al-Lathif municipal building with a garage, storeroom and fencing	600	June 17	
	Constructing of a 12-shop vegetable and meat market in Al-Mindan	500	June 18	
	Asphalting, paving and lighting of streets in Al-Qunfazah	500	June 19	
	Repairs to Al-Qorayat intermediate school	200	June 19	



NORTH OF THE BORDER: It's a situation many Americans might envy. Dave Killins, 29, of Toronto, can't even give away gasoline. He put up the sign promoting free gas three weeks ago, but business hasn't picked up.

Experts predict rise soon

U.S. unemployment rate stable

WASHINGTON, June 2 (AP) —

The unchanged unemployment rate in the United States in April masked a mild deterioration in the labor force, say several private economists who predict that joblessness will rise to at least 6.2 per cent by summer's end.

The unemployment rate in May remained at 5.8 per cent, the Labor Department reported Friday.

"If the economists are correct, joblessness will grow faster than expected by the Jimmy Carter administration, which says it won't reach 6.2 per cent until the fourth quarter," said Douglas Bentz, an economist with Chase Manhattan Bank, who says joblessness could reach 6.4 per cent by September.

Lyle Gramley, a member of the Council of Economic Advisors, said he would be surprised if the rate hit 6.2 per cent before October.

An increase from 5.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent represents about 400,000 jobs, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

"We now see clear-cut signals of cuts in consumer demand. It's only a matter of time before this shows up in the unemployment rate," said Douglas Bentz, an economist with Chase Manhattan Bank, who says joblessness could reach 6.4 per cent by September.

Robert Gough, an economist at Data Resources Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., said a 6.5 per cent unemployment rate is possible by the fall.

While unemployment will rise, the private economists said continued high business investment should keep rate from rising as dramatically as it did in the 1974-75 recession.

Meanwhile, President Carter, faced with a stubborn inflation and the possibility of an election-year recession, is moving to tighten up White House control of economic policy.

The president decided last week that tighter coordination was needed among his top economic advisers, White House officials said.

Friday he ordered those advisers, who make up what is called the economic policy group steering committee, to establish a full-time White House office and to begin more frequent meetings.

The move was described officially as a fine tuning and tightening of the existing economic policy roles.

Carter directed the EPG, which is headed by Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, to "meet several times a week in the White House."

WASHINGTON, June 2 (AP) — Nigeria enjoys a basically sound economy which will take off when the financial restraints are lifted, the U.S. Department of Commerce said Friday.

But the future is clouded by the forthcoming elections and reduced demand in spite of a new surge in revenues from a revitalized petroleum sector.

"Nigeria experienced a serious recession in 1978, due to lower oil production and marginal growth in the agricultural sector," it said.

"Government policies have reduced spending on major projects and imports, and inflation appears to be under control for the moment. The business climate is marked by the contrast of official government support for private investment — both domestic and foreign — and the sluggishness of the economy."

In a report in the June 4 issue of "Business America," its publication for American businessmen and exporters, the department said:

U.S. output falls behind rest of world this year

WASHINGTON, June 2 (AP) —

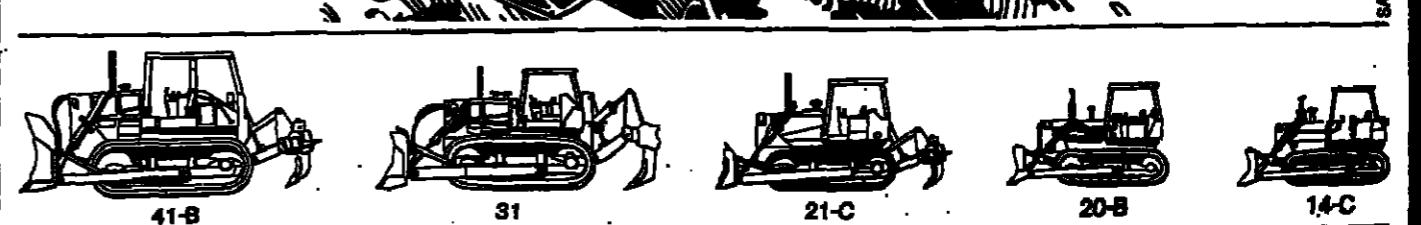
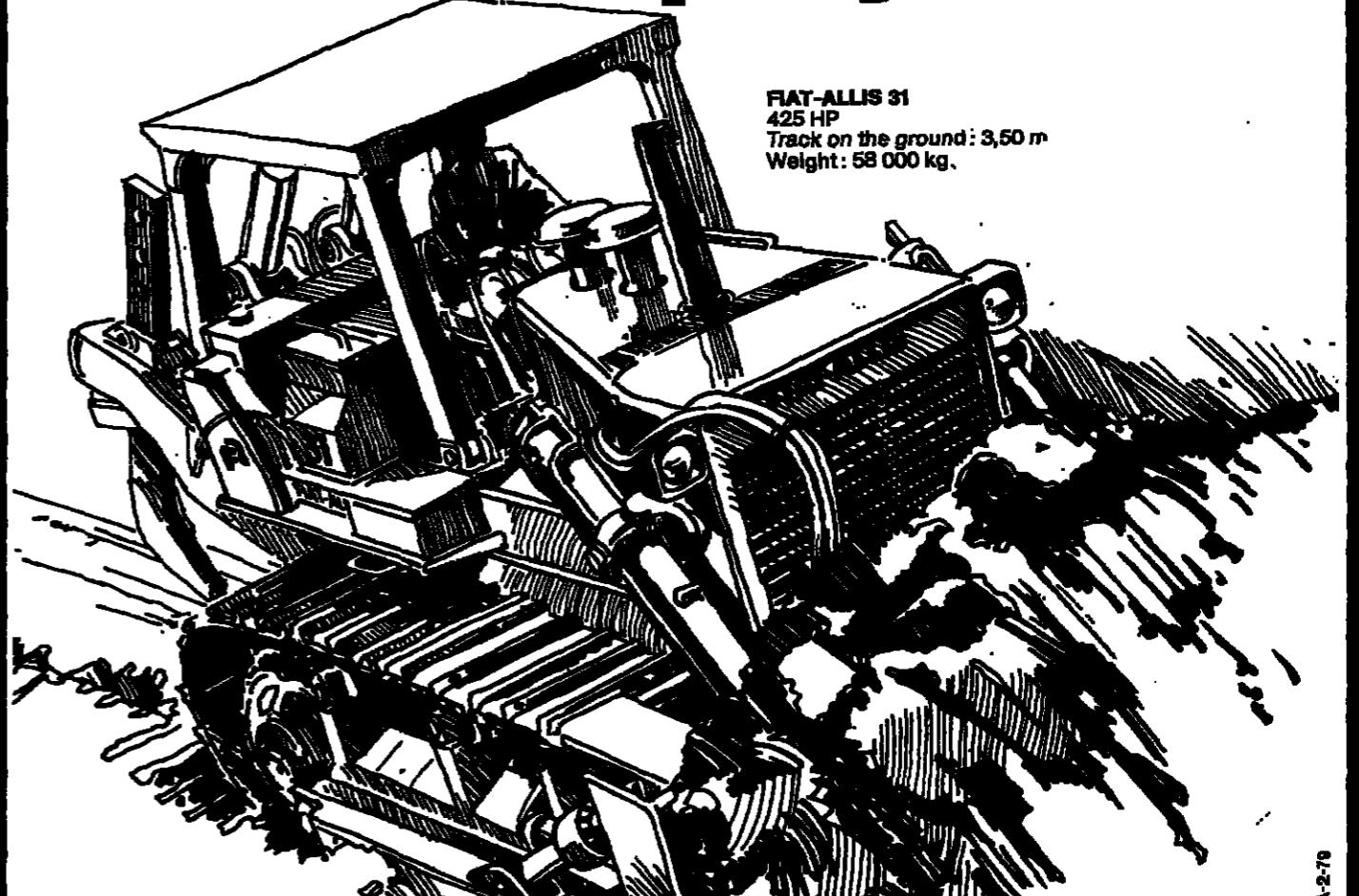
from 4.3 to 7.2 per cent.

The pace of U.S. industrial production continued the gradual deceleration which had been exhibited during the latter two quarters of 1978.

Throughout 1978 most of the growth in foreign industrial production was stimulated by high consumer demand, especially for automobiles, the department said.

Signs now indicate that the industrial recovery is moving into a phase in which output of investment goods is increasing to meet the expansion needs of manufacturing industries. This is expected to be a positive factor for U.S. exports of manufactures, which are heavily concentrated in capital goods.

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IRAN MINORITIES

The Iranian revolution and the political and religious changes introduced by the leadership have brought the country closer to the Arabs than it has been for a very long time. But the clashes between government forces and autonomy seeking Iranian Arabs in Khuzestan could, if unchecked, pose a real threat to the revived friendship.

While the grievances of the ethnic Arabs — and all other Iranian minorities for that matter — are understandable, it must be remembered that the country is going through a difficult transformation. In all such periods, mistakes are not uncommon but such transitions must not be taken as a basis for judgement and more important, must not be capitalized upon to effect changes that can be reached through dialogue and open discussion.

Like the Kurds and the Turkomans, Iranian Arabs have long held notions of autonomy and greater say in running their affairs, but their demands remained relatively dormant under the threat of the Shah's mighty military machine. With the demise of that machine, the minorities now see a chance for pushing through with their demands in the hope that the government is too preoccupied with other vital issues to deal effectively with the growing autonomy spirit. But that is a false notion. Even if the minorities manage to secure their demands at this stage, it would only be a question of time before a fully established central government would turn back and undo what it did under pressure and violence. A far more logical approach is for minorities to open a genuine dialogue with the central government and present their grievances, which no doubt exist, as friends and not foes of the new Iranian leadership.

This leadership, which for a long time was at the receiving end of the former regime's policies, is probably more sensitive and sympathetic to the aspirations of minorities since it was itself a minority until the revolution.

While total autonomy is an issue no government would sanction, the new leadership is likely to take a serious look at minority problems in the country and act to install a national spirit in these minorities — a spirit that has been shaken through years of intimidation and sometimes harsh repression.

While the situation is not the making of the new government, it is an inheritance that the government must deal with if the violent experience of Kurdish, Turkoman and Arab minorities are not to be repeated.

We are confident that the Iranian leadership has the compassion and the concern to satisfy minority aspirations, and we hope that the minorities will show goodwill and employ dialogue, not violence, to put forward their case.

— (OFNS)

EEC squabbles over money

By Ian Mather

BRUSSELS —

The Common Market, the world's biggest trading unit, is again wracked by a dispute, the nature of which would have attracted the utmost disapproval from its founding father, Robert Schuman, whose visage gazes down from commemorative posters on the Brussels underground.

In contradiction of the pan-European idealism symbolized by Schuman, the member states are involved in yet another undignified squabble over money.

Forty per cent of the world's trade is carried out by the nine members of the EEC, so the financial stakes are huge.

One of the stated aims of the EEC treaty is to reduce the size of the gap between the relatively rich members and the relatively poor ones.

So it is with consternation that two of the three poorest nations among the nine, Britain and Italy, have discovered that they have become the paymasters of Europe, and that according to forecasts this trend will not only continue but get worse from their point of view.

In terms of strict cash flows, Britain and Italy pay into the communal budget far more than they receive from it, while Denmark, on the other hand, the richest nation in the EEC in terms of per capita income, is a net gainer.

The figures have produced a crisis between Britain and the EEC. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the new chancellor of the exchequer, expressed "astonishment" when he saw the books for the first time.

The Conservatives, who won the British general election on a strongly pro-European ticket, accusing the former Labor government of anti-market obstructionism, already appear to be changing their tune.

The Conservative manifesto for the forthcoming European elections, while maintaining the party's "unshakable" commitment to Europe, argues that ways must be found to ensure that payments into the European budget are more closely related to ability to pay, and Margaret Thatcher, the prime minister, said at a press conference to launch the manifesto recently that the Conservatives would "fight Britain's corner."

The Conservative manifesto blames the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy, which, it says "penalizes many efficient farmers in Britain and elsewhere, forces consumers to pay unnecessarily high prices and imposes a huge burden on the community's tax-payers, who have to pay for the storage and disposal of even larger agricultural surpluses."

The British appear to have a case. According to the latest figures there was a net outflow of funds from Britain into the EEC central budget of \$1,500 million in 1978. Moreover, unless there is a drastic revision of the system, Britain's net contribution will rise to between \$2,400 million and \$3,000 million by 1980, according to various forecasts.

Denmark, on the other hand, made a net profit of \$560 million in its dealings with the EEC.

The European Commission's answer is that net cash flows are largely irrelevant and incidental, since they take no account of the real benefits of membership, namely increased trade and business and more competition.

The commission also argues that the rise in Britain's contribution was inevitable since Britain is a net importer of agricultural products and also has a relatively weak currency.

The Common Agricultural Policy accounts for 70 per cent of the EEC budget, and 90 per cent of this amount goes on "intervention," that is attempts to maintain regular uniform prices and to get rid of surpluses.

The basic principle is that everything that comes into the market is an import and the duty on it goes into the EEC budget.

Countries that are net exporters of agricultural products gain under the budget. Thus in addition to Denmark, Ireland, one of the least prosperous members, also does well.

But the position is complicated even further by arguments over "monetary compensation amounts" (MCAs), which are paid to exporters in high price countries such as Germany to enable them to sell to low price countries like Britain and still make a profit.

Thus a shipment of butter going from Hamburg to Tilbury picks up a subsidy on route to enable the exporter to compete in the British market, where butter is much cheaper.

The commission's eurocrats include MCAs as financial benefits to the importing country, arguing that their effect is to subsidize the cost of living of the British housewife, for instance, since without them domestic prices in Britain would be higher.

The British argue that the MCAs simply subsidize high-cost European farmers, many of them only part-time farmers and often inefficient. The British also argue that were it not for the EEC they could buy cheaper food from the Commonwealth.

The Europeans reply that Britain is now a member of the club and should not try to have it both ways.

With MCAs taken into account, Britain's net contribution to the European budget in 1978 was still \$42 million, making it the second highest after Germany, also with MCAs taken into account.

In terms of strict cash flows excluding MCAs, the German net contribution last year was down to \$462 million.

There has been a dramatic change in the contributions made by different member states in the past three years. In 1976 it was Germany that was complaining about being Europe's paymaster. In that year Germany paid \$1,352 million more than it got back, slightly more if MCAs are taken into account.

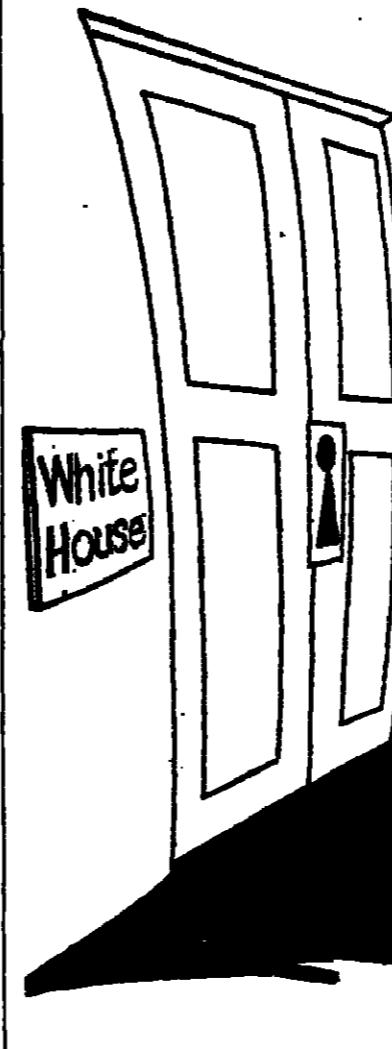
The Germans argue that they have improved their position by capturing from France some markets for agricultural goods and by tripling their agricultural exports to Britain.

They also argue that were it not for transitional arrangements, which limit the total amount of Britain's contributions during the year of membership, Britain would be paying even more.

In its proposed budget for 1980, announced recently, the commission appeared to be attempting to blunt criticisms when it proposed an increase of only 2.6 per cent on agricultural spending. But this is conditional upon a number of factors, such as proposed huge increases in the tax on milk to try to reduce surpluses, which most observers agree are unlikely to be accepted.

Moreover Britain is looking for fundamental reforms in the Common Agricultural Policy, reducing the huge amounts spent on it in favor of more spending on industry and regional planning.

— (OFNS)



Egypt struggles with autonomy talks

By Thomas Lippman

rejected in strong language."

Stung by the bitter rejection of the treaty by the other Arabs, the Egyptians say they recognize that their position going into the talks is not what they hoped it would be. The Israelis, with their settlements in the occupied territories and their raids into Lebanon, are making it look as if Sadat has been taken for a ride. Some Egyptians feel to make matters worse this country has not been able to come up with a credible Palestinian, from any faction, to work alongside the Egyptians and validate their claim to be working in the Palestinian interest.

But the Egyptians have no choice but to go ahead, hoping for the best in the negotiations and counting on the American team headed by Robert Straus to support them. "We have no other alternative but to go ahead on the way to achieve a complete settlement," Sadat told a group of American Jews recently.

The general outline of Egypt's negotiating posture in the talks was revealed in a communiqué published by the foreign ministry.

It said that "full Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza is the first step toward independence and a transitional stage before the Palestinian people claim their full right to self-determination."

It says that the "elected Palestinian authority should be converted into a constituent assembly which suggests the form of government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and participates with Egypt and Israel in the negotiations leading to self-determination." In other words, as Sadat has insisted almost from the beginning of his peace initiative in 1977, Egypt is not going to negotiate the terms of Palestinian self-determination, only make it possible for the Palestinians to do so themselves. If, then, the Palestinians refuse to work in the framework Sadat hopes to set up for them, that will no longer be Egypt's responsibility.

Egypt proposes in its working paper the establishment of four standing committees for the first phase of the negotiations. One would deal with building "trust between Egypt and Israel" by ending Israeli settlements, arranging for Palestinians to return to their homes, and allowing political activity in the occupied territories. None of those is likely to win favor with the Israelis, and the Egyptians know that.

The other three committees would deal with the issues Egypt does want to press, namely the elections procedures, the jurisdiction of the "self-ruling body" and the redeployment of Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

The Egyptians do not yet have an answer to how they can organize elections without any candidates, which would certainly be the case if the elections were held today. Despite the claims of some Egyptian officials to be in secret contact with the Palestinians about these negotiations, authoritative sources say the Palestinian boycott of the whole process is so effective that even personal Palestinian friends of Egyptian officials will not discuss it with them.

Egyptian officials familiar with the negotiations say they assume that they will have the support of the Americans on the fundamental issues in the first phase and perhaps even on the eventual crucial question of sovereignty over the West Bank, one said, "but for sure it isn't Israeli."

There is some doubt, however, about whether President Carter is prepared to push the Israelis in these negotiations as the American electoral campaign draws closer.

Thus Sadat and the Egyptians are in a position where they cannot go back but it is not at all clear what will happen as they go forward. Thoughtful Egyptians can see the possibility that a year from now, the negotiations will be stalled, their ostracism by the other Arabs will be in full effect, the Americans will be paralyzed by the election campaign, and the Israelis will be putting more settlements in the West Bank. It is a nightmare scenario that they do not like to think about, but it increases the pressure on them to make these negotiations productive. — (WP)

saudi press review

Gulf states."

Discussing the oil shortage in the United States, "Al-Riyad" said "it is possible that the crisis is artificial." The paper cited two possible reasons:

"— An attempt by the administration to 'shock' the American people into realizing that the situation is grave and that they should start using oil carefully and moderately.

"— To find a scapegoat for the failure of the energy program as the presidential election campaign approaches.

"But, the executive and Congress will fight over this failure but in the end they will unite to blame OPEC and particularly Arab member states but this will not change the facts. The Arabs have repeatedly urged a wiser policy of oil consumption in the interests of producers and consumers alike, but nothing effective in this direction has been done in the United States, the world's largest consumer."



And where is your budget, baby? — (Okun)

"Although we cannot judge in advance the reported new initiative by President Carter for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, we sincerely hope that he has realized the dangers of separate treaties and the risk in ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people," said "Okaz."

"This realization must take into account other peace avenues based on international resolutions and the Arab demands for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories including Jerusalem and Palestinian statehood. Without these basic demands, the region will always remain susceptible to a configuration."

The paper referred to the PLO's offer to enter into a dialogue with the United States and said that the offer "places the responsibility on the U.S. to heed the Palestinian voice of reason which is aware of the importance of the American role and its influence on the Arab world and the Palestinian problem

in particular."

"The U.S. is also aware that the Palestinian problem is the core of the Mideast issue and recent American contacts in Morocco and Sudan have revealed new realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Arabs in general consider it an entirely American responsibility to force Israel to peace for peace, if the U.S. is truly interested in a just settlement in the region."

What makes Saudi stamps unique

By Geoff Gardner

DHAHRAN — Philately in Saudi Arabia, say enthusiasts, is an activity with twists and turnings all of its own, a unique and exciting ground for both seasoned and would-be collectors.

On a worldwide scale, billions of dollars change hands every year as collectors and investors seek more acquisitions or expand their "portfolios". Earlier this year a single stamp was sold for \$100,000. One of 100 air-mail stamps printed in the U.S. in 1918 it featured, through a production error, an airplane flying upside down — hence its value.

Saudi Arabia now has several thousand stamp collectors, said Warren T. Latshaw, president of the Arabian Philatelic Association.

Latshaw defined the hobby's five recognized areas:

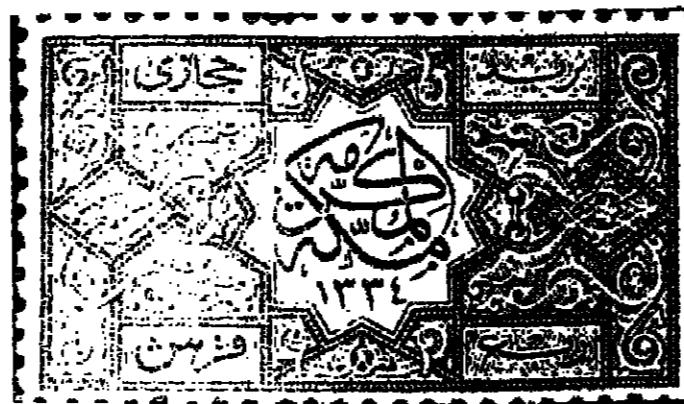
* "General" collections span the world, which usually means a hodgepodge of whatever stamps the philatelist fancies, or can get his hands on.

* "Country" narrows this down to the stamps of one particular country.

* "Category of Country" is more specific: just one type of a country's stamps, such as air-mail, special delivery, parcel post.

* "Thematic" crosses national boundaries, featuring stamps of particular personalities or themes, such as Franklin D. Roosevelt, oil-production, religion. The possibilities are endless.

* "Specialties" is even more esoteric. A collection in this class could include one stamp on all its types of printing paper, watermarks, perforations (whether the stamps on a sheet are perforated horizontally, vertically or both), shades of color, errors (such as the inverted air-mail stamp of 1918), cancellations (canceling instruc-



1918 stamp marked the independence of the Hejaz from the Turks

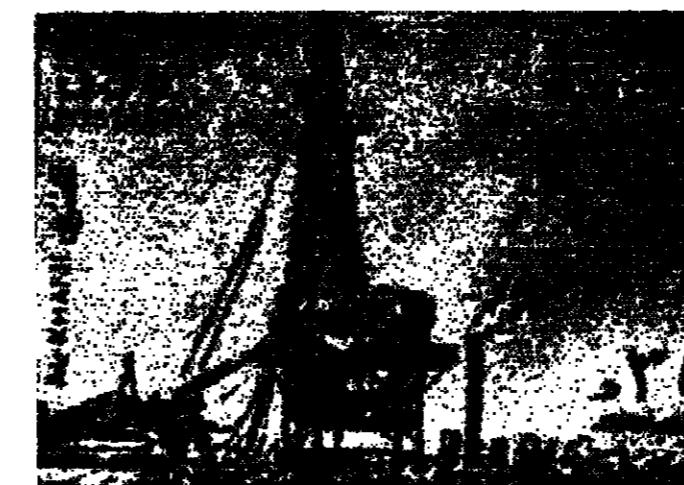
duction of new stamps. Collectors, therefore, have to keep their eyes and ears open, and make regular checks with the postage service.

Another difficulty is that the Saudi postal service does not distribute stamps in abundance; rather it supplies them as post offices call for new orders, to replenish their stocks.

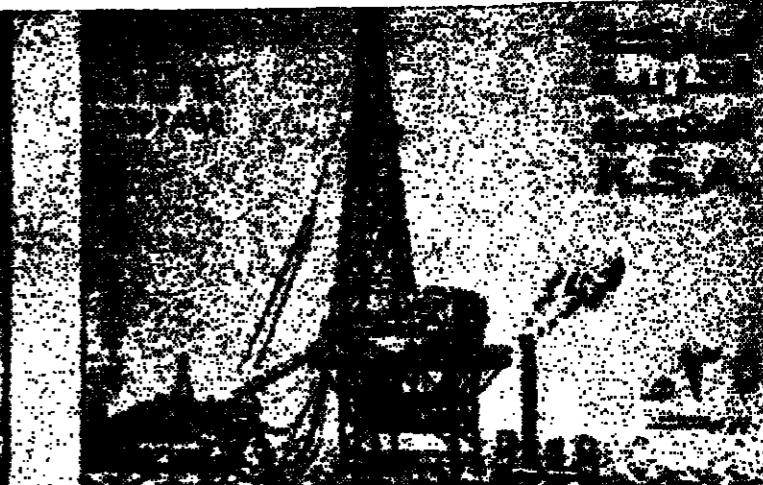
Collectors also know that Saudi Arabia now uses a watermark in its stamp paper (the U.S. and Britain don't). Watermarks are used to prevent counterfeiting and, like silver lines in riyals, can be easily seen. Soak a stamp in lighter fuel and you will see the familiar palm tree and crossed swords. This figure is in one of three positions relative to the stamp face: right, left or upside down. These three variations and a fourth — some stamps have no watermark at all — compound the problem of obtaining a complete collection.

Along with other countries, the Kingdom has its share of production errors — and these mistakes are valuable from the collector's point of view.

One expensive Saudi stamp is a 1977 issue which has a mistake in a date in the bottom panel. The stamp, which was withdrawn a few days after issue, commemorated the second anniversary of King



From a recent batch of 35 unperfected haliya stamps, this pair is worth around SR450



Abraham Lincoln's birthday; Haiti — but a profitable one for its Government.

Khaled's rule. Saudi stamps are almost all perforated. Some, however, are imperfectly done. These are rare and valuable.

The major problem facing the Saudi collector are counterfeits of early issues, mostly of the 1920s. Unauthorized overprints were added to some of these. Overprinting is the process by which the postal service alters a stamp to change its value, or to make it a commemorative stamp. Instead of issuing new stamps as a reminder of a special occasion, the authorities take uncirculated sheets and overprint on them. This can be easily duplicated by fraudsters attempting to create more "rare" stamps.

Experts can detect the counterfeits. Since legal overprinting is done on sheets (100 stamps to a sheet), the philatelist can obtain one of the many sheets available and study it carefully. Counterfeits overprint the stamps singly, or in groups of four, because mass official-style overprinting is difficult to setup.

The second detection method is to examine overprinted stamps still on their envelopes. Comparison between the envelope and the overlapping counterfeit overprint usually shows up illegal markings.

Latshaw summarizes Saudi stamps issues by classifying them in two problem eras. The early issues, especially 1922-25, are complicated by fraudulent overprints. Stamps issued from 1960 to the present day challenge the collector in the many varieties of watermarks, shades of color, spacing (due to the changing of plates at the printer) and production methods (photogravure or lithograph). Issues printed under the reign of King Faisal differ from those under King Abdul Aziz only by the Royal cartouche on the

feathers overprint the stamps singly, or in groups of four, because mass official-style overprinting is difficult to setup.

Other eras are not complicated, since stamps were not issued in large numbers or great variations.

For the collector who sets out to obtain all the variations, the market in Saudi Arabia is tremendous.

The Arabian Philatelic Association, which confines its 170-strong membership to Aramco employees, sponsors an annual stamp auction. Nearly all Saudi material is sold at these auctions, and prices are increasing steadily. Sales at the 1978 auction totalled SR53,000, said Latshaw.

One advantage of collecting Saudi stamps is that the postal service here has restricted the number of commemorative stamps to events concerning Saudi Arabia. The collector will not find stamps issued merely to create collectors' items — and increase the profits of the post office.

Haiti, for example, has issued stamps to commemorate

Music from the Oud...

By a Staff Reporter

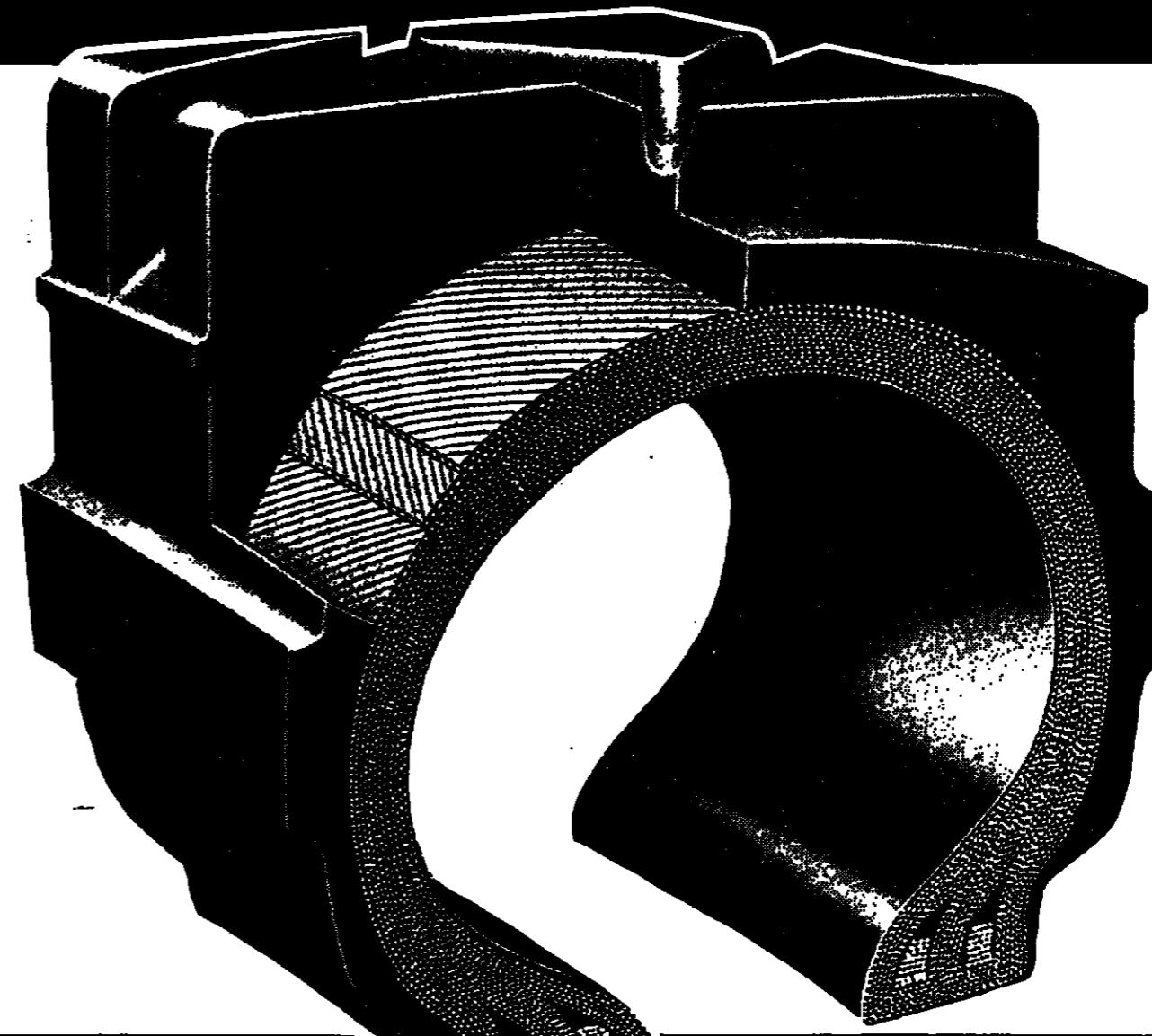
Salieq (boiled lamb, gravy mixed with milk, Egyptian rice, turkey and green salad) from the Western Province.

There will be a selection of Saudi art presented by Dr. Abdul-Jah Masy, director of the Museum of Antiquities, with a display including old powder guns and jewelry of silver and bronze, tur-

quoise and coral. With the anti-with entertainment include: quiches are rare volumns of the Kabsa (rice, raisons, pine nuts, Korean, and copies of history liver, cardamom, onions and cinnamon) from the Eastern Province; Yogmosh (a wheat pastry stuffed with eggplant, okra, by the Saudi Cultural Council of tomatoes, lamb, onions and hot Arts, under the direction of peppers) from the Nejd; and Abdullah Jareela.

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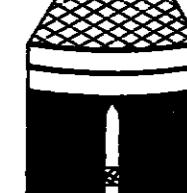


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One man holds back the flood

By W.B. Reed

— either stop filling New Melones reservoir or risk drowning him.

By opening a valve in New Melones dam and spilling millions of gallons of water downstream, the corps has stopped the reservoir from rising.

The corps, local sheriff's deputies and scores of searchers on foot, in helicopters, planes and boats have also conducted a massive search of the reservoir shoreline in a vain attempt to find Dubois. Calaveras and Tuolumne county sheriffs have called off their search.

"Our latest information is he is not chained. We've received information he is safe from the water. I would say the threat of suicide is a hoax," said Tuolumne county sheriff Wallace Barry.

But during an interview that lasted into the early hours, Dubois was indeed chained — and very close to the water's edge.

Only a white sock on one foot protected his ankle from a heavy chain fastened to a massive eye bolt, which in turn was firmly anchored in solid rock.

"As this lower river has gone underwater, a part of me has gone. It's been painful. I've shed a lot of tears," said Dubois, explaining why he decided to offer the Corps of Engineers an ultimatum

COLUMBIA, Calif. — Beavers lapped their tails in warning on the waters of the Stanislaus river in Central California as a small raft glided through the darkness toward the hiding of young environmentalist whose lonely protest has effectively stopped the filling of New Melones reservoir.

On the raft were two newsmen, the first to confirm that 30-year-old Mark Dubois actually had chained himself to a rocky ledge only a few feet from the surface of the reservoir, which — until last week — was filling steadily with runoff melting Sierra snows.

The raft made its way among the tops of nearly submerged trees to a point on the shoreline only a few yards from where Dubois — with the aid of an eye bolt, a short chain and a padlock — has forced the U.S. Army to do what years of pleading with bureaucrats and politicians couldn't.

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Houston humbles Montreal in battle of division heads

NEW YORK, June 2 (AP) — J.R. Richard scattered seven Montreal hits Friday night and Terry Puhl hit a home run to give Houston Astros a 3-2 victory over the Expos in a meeting of the National League's division leaders.

With the victory, Houston's fourth in a row, the Astros remained one game ahead of Cincinnati in the West. The Expos, whose winning streak ended at three games, stayed three games ahead of Philadelphia in the East.

The Astros nicked Ross Grimsley for two runs in the first inning, breaking a streak of 27 2/3 consecutive scoreless innings by the Expos' pitching staff. The runs came on singles by Puhl, Craig Reynolds and Cesar Cedeno and an RBI-grounder by Jose Cruz. Puhl homered in the third.

Second baseman Rudy Meoli's two-run in the eighth inning gave Ken Griffey's grounder gave Cincinnati a 4-2 victory over Pete Rose and the Phillies. The Reds loaded the bases on two walks off Steve Carlton and a fielder's choice before Griffey's second bouncer over second base scored

Dave Parker hit a game-tying three-run homer and reliever Rollie Fingers' bases-loaded walk forced in Pittsburgh's winning run as the Pirates rallied in the ninth to beat the San Diego Padres, 9-8.

Dave Kingman drove in six runs with his 16th and 17th homers and a double to lead the Chicago Cubs



RICHARD: 4-hitter

Ray Knight and Rick Auerbach.

It was Rose's first appearance in Cincinnati since he played out his option with the Reds and signed with the Phillies. He was hitless in four at-bats.

Butch Hobson homered and drove in three runs to lead the Boston Red Sox to a 5-2 decision over Minnesota. Sixto Lezcano's bases-loaded double in the eighth inning scored two runs and propelled the Milwaukee Brewers past

Kansas City, 5-4.

Andre Thornton had a 4-for-4 game and hit two runs, leading the Cleveland Indians to a 7-4 victory over California. Ruppert Jones' two-run homer keyed a four-run first inning and Seattle went on to beat Toronto, 7-2. Oakland scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth inning on a grounder by Jim Essian and a single by Mario Guerrero to beat Detroit, 3-2, and snap the Tigers' six-game winning streak.

to a 8-2 victory over San Francisco.

Dave Borg's single capped a two-run 11th inning that vaulted the St. Louis Cardinals to an 8-7 victory over Los Angeles. Davey Lopes hit a pair of home runs for the Dodgers. Frank Taveras' grounder scored Doug Flynn with New York's tie-breaking run in the 11th inning and the Mets edged the Atlanta Braves, 5-4.

In the American League, Ron Guidry silenced Chicago on two hits and Lou Piniella hit a homer as the Yankees blanked the White Sox, 4-0.

Seattle's aggressive center Jack Sikma, 43, with teammate John Johnson in a recent game.



CENTER: Seattle's aggressive center Jack Sikma, 43, with teammate John Johnson in a recent game.

Seattle captures its 1st NBA title

LANDOVER, Md., June 2 (AP) — The Seattle SuperSonics, led by center Jack Sikma and a trio of talented guards beat the Washington Bullets, 97-93 Friday night to win the first National Basketball Association championship in their 10-year career.

The Sonics took the best-of-seven playoff final, 4-1, to dethrone the Bullets, who won the title a year ago over Seattle.

It was a comeback victory in which Seattle recovered from a 51-40 deficit by limiting the Bullets to 42 points in whirlwind half.

Sikma, Seattle's 6-foot-11 second-year man, scored 12 points and grabbed 18 rebounds battling Washington's Wes Unseld and Elvin Hayes under the backboards.

Of the guards Dennis Johnson was named the series' most Valuable Player.

Lopez makes her move

Stadler goes clear at Kemper

CHARLOTTE, N.C., June 2 (AP) — Craig Stadler added a solid, three-under-par 69 to his opening effort of 62 and moved to a four-stroke lead Friday in the second round of the \$ 350,000 Kemper Open golf tournament.

"It was about the same game as yesterday," said the chunky Stadler, who is listed at 210 pounds and said he'd be happy if he were that light. "I just didn't get it as close to the hole. But there wasn't much difference in the way I played — just seven shots."

"But there's nothing wrong with a 69 on the golf course. I am very pleased."

His 131 total was 13 strokes below par on the 7,160-yard Quail Hollow Country Club course and put him in command going into Saturday's third round of the chase for the \$ 63,000 first prize. It will be his 26th birthday.

"I've shot 67 here on my birthday the last two years. I'm looking forward to tomorrow," said Stadler, who is seeking his first pro title.

Jerry McGee, who had bested Stadler's 10-under-par first round with an 11-under-par 61, went 13 shots higher with a 74 this hot, humid, hazy day and drifted back to second at 135.

Lopez moves ahead

New Rochelle, N.Y., June 2 (AP) — Nancy Lopez, admitting

that she did not want to sound greedy, shot a two-under par 70

Friday to overtake Pat Bradley for the lead at 137 at the halfway mark of a \$ 100,000 Ladies professional Golf Association tournament.

Lopez, who had a 67 on Thursday to trail Bradley by one stroke, closed out with a bogey-six on the 18th hole after having gone eight under on the par 72, 6,410-yard

3-under par 69 and 141.

Pace-making Strasbourg wins French soccer title

PARIS, June 2 (R) — Strasbourg Friday night won the French soccer championship, ensuring a place in next year's European Cup.

The Alsatian club has headed the championship table since the beginning of the season last August but had to battle up to the end to affirm its superiority.

A bad mid-winter patch allowed Nantes and St. Etienne to catch up and Strasbourg only clinched the title in its last League match when it crushed Lyon, 3-0.

Good news for St. Etienne fans was the announcement Friday that the vastly talented Michel Platini would transfer from Nantes to St. Etienne.

"I feel like a man who has taken on Lucky Luciano, Bonnie and Clyde and Jesse James with an umbrella and bowler hat — and a rule book that doesn't mean anything," Gilkison said.

A proposal to allow League matches on Sundays was overruled and the four clubs who filled the bottom places in the Fourth Division — Doncaster, Darlington, Crewe and Halifax — were re-elected in preference to the new aspirants, Altrincham and Kettering.

Clubs admitted in recent years notably Wimbleton and Wigan have done well but delegates were reluctant Friday to vote for the expulsion of any of the established clubs.

Records tumble at Asian meet

TOKYO, June 2 (R) — Chinese and Japanese athletes shattered five Asian records to dominate the Asian track and field meeting here Saturday.

But the Japanese, who set two new Asian records, continued to dominate the competition by collecting four more gold medals Saturday. China took three, Iraq two and Thailand and North Korea won one each of the 11 finals.

After three days of competition, the Japanese have won 12 golds against China's five.

Records tumble at Asian meet

Danes Skittle Canada

BIRMINGHAM, June 2 (AP) — Denmark defeated Canada by 45 runs Friday in the little World Cup cricket competition —

The Danes skittled the Canadians out for 72, with fast bowler Mordif taking four for 12.

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Records tumble at Asian meet

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Mordif taking four for 12.

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PASSPORT LOST

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Rhodesia guerrilla chiefs set up combined command

DARESSALAAM, June 2 (R) — Robert Mugabe and Josina Nkomo, leaders of the guerrilla alliance fighting the Zimbabwe Rhodesia government, announced Saturday that they had created a joint military command which would intensify the bush war.

The two leaders held a news conference after two days of talks here aimed at consolidating the Patriotic Front grouping.

Nkomo said, "at Addis Ababa on May 12 we decided to create certain organs to bring ourselves closer together and make us more effective. Now we have decided to finalize and institute them."

Nkomo, who heads the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) wing of the front, added "there will be an intensification of the war."

Mugabe, leader of the Mozambique-based Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) said he could not see how the Salisbury administration of Prime Minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa would last much longer.

He declined to predict when it would fall, but replied: "They can last as long as we are not sufficiently reinforced for purposes of escalating the struggle. Now we feel we are reinforced."

In Salisbury, Muzorewa Saturday appealed for peace to the country's hostile neighbors and guerrillas.

In his first television and radio address to the nation since assuming office at midnight on Thursday, the 54-year-old bishop promised his people irrevocable emancipation from white control.

"When we have finally achieved that true freedom, peace and prosperity, no foul-mouthed idiot will dare say we are puppets or stooges of some establishment," he declared.

He spoke after a series of talks with U.S. emissaries last week, during the official transition from white rule. Official sources said he had secret meetings with several

unofficial envoys, including State Department Africa adviser Allard Lowenstein.

They had told him he could reinforce his case for international recognition by proving that he, and not the whites, now ran the country, the sources said. But no tangible results had emerged from the talks so far.

In his long address Friday Muzorewa urged the United States and Britain to recognize his government and lift sanctions. There was a new democratic reality in Zimbabwe Rhodesia, with which the world must learn to live,

He was expected to shuttle back and forth to London to keep Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington informed.

The mainly black coalition administration has been criticized abroad for perpetuating a large measure of white influence.

Former Premier Ian Smith and four other whites are members of the 17-man cabinet. Whites have 28 seats in the 100-seat parliament as well as holding day-to-day control of security forces and the civil service for the next five years.

Muzorewa said Saturday that never in history had a government come to power with more problems than his.

He asked guerrillas to return in peace and assured Mugabe and Nkomo that the amnesty offer was genuine and honest "and comes from the bottom of our hearts."

He said that four weeks ago he had communicated officially with the leaders of the five African "front-line" states who support the Patriotic Front.

Martins, who with the others had pleaded innocent, was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Corp. Cuthbert Gonesa, second in command, was given seven years.

The others received lesser sentences.

A protected village is a town fenced and occupied by a military force to protect it from guerrillas in the bush war that has claimed more than 16,000 lives in six years.

The announcement came Friday as sporadic fighting was reported in Managua and other cities and as the rebels pressed efforts to promote a general strike in Managua.

Clandestine Radio Sandino warned Managua residents a general insurrection was coming and suggested stockpiling food and medical supplies.

National Guard patrols have

tightened the perimeter around members of the International Communist mercenary brigade in the south, said Col. Apolito Ayanda Escobar, the Guard public relations officer.

He said five guardmen had been killed in the fighting but had no idea about Sandinista fatalities. The guard does not take prisoners.

Ayanda said the rebels, who allegedly entered Nicaragua from Costa Rica Monday in five groups of 60, were firing on Guard positions with hand-held rockets. The Guard continued to pummel the rebels with planes, tanks and

truck-launched rockets.

The fighting is taking place on the 25-kilometer-wide strip of land between Lake Nicaragua and the Pacific.

The Sandinista government continued to denounce what it said was a troop building on the Costa Rican side of the border, intended to free the trapped guerrillas.

Costa Rica has no army but has long been accused by Somozas of harboring the guerrillas which are struggling to overthrow him and end 42 years of his family's rule.

Costa Rican authorities have evacuated the border areas in case the Nicaraguans should cross the border in pursuit of guerrillas.

ZANU is boycotting the new government, claiming the April elections were rigged in favor of Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC).

ZANU won 12 of 72 seats reserved for blacks in the 100-member legislature, against Muzorewa's 51.

Victorious Weissmuller celebrates 75th birthday

HOLLYWOOD, June 2 (AP) — He is kept "somewhat sedated" and has occasional lapses of memory, but Johnny Weissmuller, the star most often identified as Tarzan, Saturday celebrated his 75th birthday.

Weissmuller recently avoided confinement to a mental asylum, and a granddaughter was to be graduating from high school on Saturday at age 16.

His daughter, Lisa Weissmuller, has Friday that the former swimming champion will have a cake and a party with his family Sunday at the Motion Picture and Television Country House and Hospital in Woodland hills. He has been in hospitals for more than 18 months

Menten may never be fit to face trial

THE HAGUE, June 2 (R) — Dutch millionaire Peter Menten, in a coma after collapsing when police said they were arresting him for alleged war crimes, is unlikely ever to be fit enough to stand trial, his lawyer said Saturday.

The 80-year-old diabetic became ill at his home Friday night when he learned that a Rotterdam court had issued a warrant for his arrest. He is seriously ill at Utrecht University Hospital.

Menten has already been convicted once of helping to murder up to 30 Poles in 1941 when he worked for the Nazis in Poland.

for treatment of the effects of a series of strokes.

"We'll go down to the hospital with a cake and everything. This is a very exciting weekend for all of us," she said.

She said Weissmuller, the barrel-chested hero of six Tarzan movies between 1932 and 1942, is proud that his 16-year-old daughter, Lisa Maria Salb, is graduating early from high school.

Her father still plays cards, has pleasant visits with his family and remains competitive despite allegations about his behaviour that surfaced in a custody fight last month by his sixth wife, Maria.

Jack Staggs, executive director of the hospital, who was seeking custody of Weissmuller, maintained in an affidavit that the former actor was spitting on the floor and giving the famous Tarzan yell, frightening other patients.

"We really fought that," his daughter said. "Mom won the conservatorship and won the fight."

The decision by a superior court judge kept Weissmuller from being transferred from the hospital to an asylum. Now he is awaiting transfer to Holiday Manor, a convalescent home in nearby Canoga Park that is designed to care for people with emotional or behavior problems.

Everything's completely under control," she said. "My dad just has these memory lapses ... and they do keep him somewhat sedated."

MANILA, June 2 (R) — Rich and poor countries stuck to widely differing views on how best to spread the world's wealth as the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) drew to a close here Saturday night.

Efforts were still going on to salvage as much as possible from the four-week conference, already extended 24 hours beyond its scheduled ending.

But delegates said it was clear the conference would end with much less achieved than was hoped for at the outset.

They said the negotiating group had all but collapsed in trying to draft an agreed resolution on global consultations for new international economic order.

The Western industrialized countries were insisting that the text must mention energy among the problems to be solved, but the "Group of 77" developing countries were saying the issue should not be singled out.

A Philippines delegate said Saturday night the "message of Manila" seemed to be that developing countries would have to trade more among themselves if they wanted enough bargaining power to gain more from the industrialized countries.

The delegate said the "Group of 77," actually 119 Latin American, Asian and African countries, might have learned that such economic cooperation could be the most important way of facing the richer nations.

Negotiations might start soon among developing countries to grant one another trade preference and set up their own multilateral trading companies, he said.

"It is certainly less than we had hoped for but if it means a strengthening of developing country cooperation, then the conference

was worthwhile," he said.

The conference was holding a final session after midnight Saturday to endorse matters where agreement had been reached. A few of them, including proposals on commodity agreements, were adopted.

But delegates said this concession would be made only if the Group of 77 did not force a decision on the proposal for a new finance facility to make up for loss of earnings on commodity exports. They said this seemed a likely compromise.

On commodities, the industrialized nations have agreed that pro-

cessed and semi-processed products could be included in negotiations for an international commodity agreement where the developing countries consider it appropriate.

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Western countries have been

Indian army opens fire on rioting police strikers

NEW DELHI, June 2 (AP) — Five policemen were wounded, one of them seriously, when Indian Army troops opened fire on a violent mob of striking police in Ahmadabad, Gujarat state, western India.

The army is manning police stations in the city where earlier the striking policemen forced the release of two of their jailed leaders. Traffic in the city was also disrupted with traffic police joining the strike.

The state government arrested 61 policemen Friday in a crackdown on rebels.

The army was called out earlier this month to dislodge agitating policemen in Punjab, the first state hit by the wave of protests against low pay, long hours, poor sanitation and housing conditions and political meddling in the police.

Since then the Punjab government and the central government have acknowledged that many of the grievances were justified and promised to improve conditions.

Punjab has declared a 23 percent wage increase, raising the average monthly police pay to \$53. Poorer states, where the average pay is as low as \$21 a month, have waited for the central government to frame a single pay policy.

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Despite attempts to block it by the United States and Western European countries, on the grounds its wording was too political, it was passed — but only after the U.S. insisted on a roll call vote which forced each country to declare its position.

It received 91 votes to 16, with 14 abstentions. Thirty-eight countries including Jordan were not present for the vote.

reluctant to let UNCTAD assume a financial role which they believe should be played by existing institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Earlier Friday, the conference was extended by at least 24 hours in an effort to overcome the crisis on major issues.

Some African nations, expressing bitterness over what they saw as the inflexible stand of the Western nations, threatened to declare the conference a failure if there was no last-minute change of heart, delegates reported Friday.

But other Third World nations, from Asia and Latin America, made behind-the-scene efforts to salvage at least some of the agreements.

Philippines Foreign Minister Carlos Romulo, president of the conference, announced the one-day extension, said there was a possibility the conference might be extended to Sunday "if we go on talking."

The conference was officially due to end Friday but when the final plenary session started Friday afternoon there were only a handful of peripheral resolutions ready.

With few of the substantive UNCTAD issues completed, attention switched to a resolution sponsored by the Palestine and the southern African delegates.

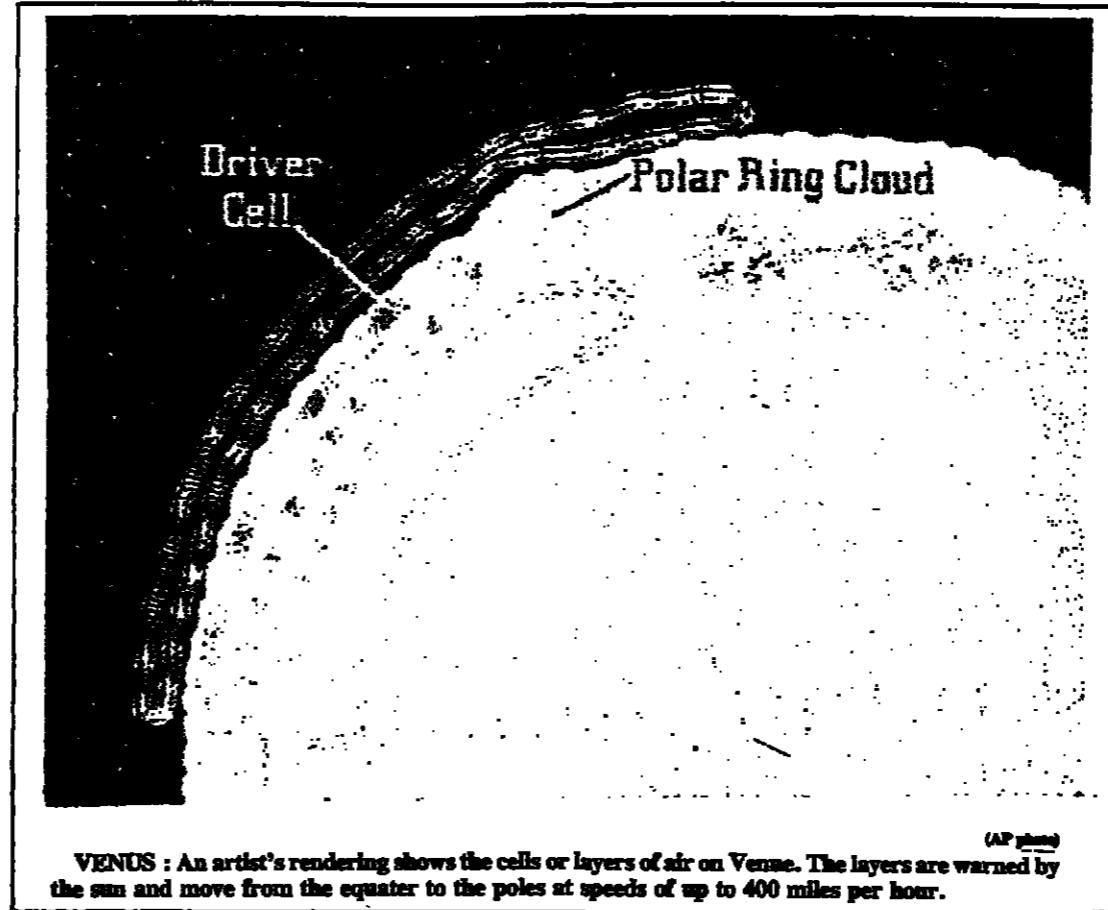
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International



Unofficial U.S. envoys reported seeing top leaders in Rhodesia

Somoza forces close in

Sandinistas said surrounded

MANAGUA, June 2 (AP) —

President Anastasio Somoza's National Guard says it is closing in on Sandinista guerrillas trapped in the south, said Col. Apolito Ayanda Escobar, the Guard public relations officer.

One visitor, they said, was

Allard Lowenstein, a former con-

gressman and U.N. envoy who was in Rhodesia last month as part of the Freedom House Delegation monitoring the election.

The sources said Lowenstein met with Bishop Muzorewa in a "private capacity" early last week. Other Americans were not identified, and details of their activities were not disclosed.

A special British government envoy, Derek Day, arrived in Salisbury Friday night from London, saying his mission was to "develop and maintain the closest possible contact" with Muzorewa.

Day is staying at Marimbo House, the British government's former official residence in Salisbury.

Day said his posting to Salisbury, on a temporary basis, didn't imply recognition of the government.

ZANU

In another development, police released five of 13 officials of the Rev. Ndabani Sithole's maverick ZANU party who have been detained since Wednesday.

According to ZANU spokesman Mary James Dzvova, police questioned the men about "a number of things — party activities and the like."

Beycott

ZANU is boycotting the new government, claiming the April elections were rigged in favor of Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC).

ZANU won 12 of 72 seats reserved for blacks in the 100-member legislature, against Muzorewa's 51.

Chamoun urges talks on peace with PLO

BEIRUT, June 2 (R) —

Camille Chamoun, a powerful rightist leader, has called for reconciliation talks with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Former President Chamoun, whose National Liberal Party (NLP) militiamen battled Palestinian commandos during the 1975-76 civil war, said he wished to help the Palestinians out of their predicament in Lebanon.

Speaking to reporters Friday, Chamoun said for reconciliation talks with the PLO were "realistic and constructive, in the light of Lebanon's interests, the Palestinians' short-term and long-term interests, and in the interests of the region as a whole."

"I personally see nothing to prevent me from meeting with them and discussing their case realistically and constructively, in the